

# FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 7, No. 14

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

April 15, 2005

## Marines walk to support fight against MS

Story by Staff Sgt. Maria C. Brookman

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

SAN DIEGO — Marine sniper Gunnery Sgt. Carlos N. Hathcock II was best known for his unparalleled marksmanship skills during the Vietnam era, but perhaps one of the most personal battles he faced was his fight against Multiple Sclerosis.

In June 1975, Hathcock was diagnosed with the disease, and he submitted for medical retirement four years later, 55 days short of a 20-year service.

Several Miramar Marines participated in this year's San Diego Multiple Sclerosis walk Saturday and Sunday at Legoland in Carlsbad, Calif., and San Diego's Embarcadero Marina Park South. Most of the Marines walked for relatives with the disease, and others participated because they had friends who have it. More than one Miramar Marine was impacted by the disease.

"Growing up with a parent diagnosed with MS was a unique experience," said Cpl. Zachary A. Sutton, percussionist, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, and Marieta, Ga., native, whose mother was diagnosed when he was 12. "Even on the most excruciating

of days when she couldn't get out of bed in the morning due to her legs not responding to her nervous system, she refused to quit. My mom is the toughest person I know and the single hero I have in my life."

The Marines joined more than 9,500 others in support of the San Diego chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to raise funds for research and care for those affected by the disease. More than 600 teams participated, and the walk generated more than \$1.5 million, according to a release by the San Diego chapter.

Not every Marine from the Miramar teams had a tie as closely connected with the disease as Sutton.

Gunnery Sgt. Daniel L. Tull, crash chief, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, 3rd MAW, said he walked "in support of a friend as well as others diagnosed with MS." Tull and his wife Kristen, a former Miramar Marine, alternated pushing their daughter in her stroller over the more than 3-mile trek on Sunday.

"It was a glorious weekend filled with many inspirational moments," said Allan Shaw, MS Society president and chief executive officer. "We are extremely grateful for the support of every walker and sponsor



A group of participants in the 2005 San Diego Multiple Sclerosis Walk pass by one of the many signs identifying teams and corporations who were major contributors for the April 10 event. Photos by Staff Sgt. Chad McMeen

who put their best foot forward, every step of the way, to end the devastating effects of MS."

Multiple Sclerosis is an autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system,

according to the NMSS. The disease causes the body to attack the tissue that helps insulate and protect its own nerves. When the

See WALK page 10

## Injured Marine returns home to friends, family, unit

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Staff Sergeant Ian C. Lejeune, technical controller, Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, returned home to San Diego Monday, after spending seven weeks at Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio.

Lejeune was serving his third tour in Iraq when he was wounded in Taqaddam, Iraq, after a rocket impacted his quarters while he was sleeping Feb. 23.

"He's probably one of the most outstanding Marines in the squadron," said Lt. Col. David Olszowy, commanding officer, MWCS-38. "He's the guy responsible for a lot of the installation of the communications in Al Asad, (Iraq), during the first phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. He was the driving force. He was instrumental in setting up the communications."

According to Staff Sgt. William P. Chatten, a fellow Marine and close friend, there is nothing he wouldn't do for Lejeune.

"We were sleeping at the time the rocket hit," said

**"I tried to walk, but found out really quick I had two broken legs. So then I tried to crawl out."**

**Staff Sgt. Ian C. Lejeune  
technical controller  
MWCS-38, MACG-38, 3rd MAW**

Chatten, technical control chief, MWCS-38. "The three things that went through my head was one, I need my flak jacket and kevlar helmet, two, I need to make sure Staff Sergeant Lejeune is awake and the third, I never wrote that letter for my wife.

"After the building collapsed, I headed for daylight," he added. "As soon as I got out, I turned to make sure he was still behind me. When he wasn't, I turned and went back after him. That's when two or three Marines grabbed me and pulled me back, noticing the blood from my arm that I hadn't yet."

"When a 122mm rocket landed on the living room floor, it woke us up," said Lejeune.

"I tried to find out where Staff Sergeant Chatten was

at but couldn't," Lejeune said. "I tried to walk, but found out really quick I had two broken legs. So then I tried to crawl out.

"It is hard to describe the feeling of the impact of the rocket," he added. "It was like the hand of God grabbing a hold of me. It is something I look at like it was the unluckiest day of my life, but also the luckiest."

Although Lejeune's injuries consisted of two broken legs, a broken ankle, a sliced Achilles tendon and severe burns over the lower portion of his body, he has made tremendous strides on the road to recovery.

"I went down to visit him about two weeks ago and, quite frankly, thought he was recovering very well," said Olszowy. "His injuries were doing great and the doctors were pretty amazed at the recovery. His injuries are not insignificant, either."

According to Maj. Roswell V. Dixon, executive officer, MWCS-38, Lejeune still has a long road to recovery but he's definitely up for the fight.

"The way his spirit is, it is always up," said Dixon.

See LEJEUNE page 8

## Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



74°/57°  
Today



74°/58°  
Saturday



74°/57°  
Sunday

**Padres  
thank  
military  
pg 6**



**'Sims'  
not just  
a video game  
pg 8**





# L.I.N.K.S. makes house calls online

Story by Jeanne Hull Olszowy

## LIFELines

The Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge, Skills program has entered cyberspace. In an attempt to reach those who might not ordinarily be able to attend a L.I.N.K.S. session at one of its 15 Marine Corps installation sites, Marine Corps Family Team Building has provided the 10-hour course online. Starting now, individuals will be able to travel inside the world of the Marine Corps from their own homes.

The L.I.N.K.S. course, whether taken online or in the classroom, offers a comprehensive overview on being part of the Marine Corps family. Developed by military spouses, its intent is to introduce new spouses to the Marine Corps culture. The course covers:

- \* Marine Corps history and traditions
- \* benefits, privileges and services
- \* financial awareness
- \* dealing with military separation and deployment
- \* tips on moving
- \* the development of effective communication skills with those in the community and family members

### About the Website

The website provides technical support for participants who are hearing- or sight- impaired, as well as for those who have physical challenges in manipulating a computer mouse. It is interactive and includes audio and visual graphics of Marines and Marine spouses who guide participants through the entire program. Icons are provided so that a participant may print informative worksheets, quizzes and a certificate of completion at the course's end. In addition, any questions a participant might have are funneled through a dis-

cussion board to well-trained mentors from any of the 15 L.I.N.K.S. sites at Marine Corps installations.

### The Website's Audience

The class is for anyone registered within the DEERS system who cannot or chooses not to attend the class on Marine Corps bases. It is for spouses of active duty Marines, reservists, recruiters, or those who might be stationed in remote areas. Originally intended for the Marine spouse, L.I.N.K.S. Online will now make the information available to fiancées, children, civilians working for the Marine Corps, or parents of a Marine who want to learn more about the Marine Corps. Those who are not registered within the DEERS system will need to register online with their Marines.

### Benefits of the online course

Since LINKS will be online, the course will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is programmed for most home computers, so it's convenient for those whose schedules cannot accommodate a class. The online course also allows for flexibility in how participants take the course. Should they wish to review a session or skip one, the program is designed to enable them to do that.

### How to Register

- 1) Go to <http://www.marinenet.usmc.mil/>.
- 2) Click on Course Catalogue.
- 3) Register for LINKS (participants need to log on each time).
- 4) Begin exploring the world of the Marine Corps.

## Payday lenders equal payday troubles

Story by Ann Evans

### MCAS Miramar NMCRS Director

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society recognizes "living beyond your means" as a prescription for disaster. Yet living in today's high-paced society can drive you to do just that! Don't despair. The NMCRS's trained counselors can help you focus on improving your financial picture.

Does more than 25 percent of your take-home pay go to paying bills? Are you making only minimum payments on bills? Are you taking out new loans to pay off old ones? Stalling one creditor to pay another? Are you having family arguments over money matters? Or worst of all, have you resorted to using payday lenders as a quick and easy source of cash?

Payday lenders and cash advances may seem to be the answer to a short-term problem. After all, you are just borrowing against your next paycheck. It's easy...you just give them a post dated check or electronic check information as collateral for a short-term loan. Did you check out the interest rate? The annual percentage rate is apt to be a triple digit figure.

Remember, the payday lending business is designed to keep you in debt, not to provide one-time assistance during a time of financial need. I've heard it said that California has more payday lenders than fast food restaurants.

Payday lenders are protected from usury laws that

prohibit exorbitant interest charges because they are not considered loans, but rather "deferred deposits." If you are not able to cover the check by the next payday, you can extend the loan.

Industry research shows that 40 percent of customers renew their loans five or more times, according to a San Diego Union-Tribune article from March 9, 2004. Each loan comes with a new fee, which can create annual percentage rates as high as 900 percent or more.

These are just a few examples of how easy it is to "live beyond your means." In fact, that is the problem with payday lenders... they are too quick and too easy. It is much better to take the old fashioned approach. Be discriminating about what you buy. Make a plan and then save the money first. There are big-ticket items that we must put on credit, but many of the things we tend to buy on impulse can be deferred until the money is saved.

Sound too difficult?

Let NMCRS create a personalized budget that fits your circumstances. It is free and will take only about an hour of your time. Call (858)577-1807 for an appointment. In the meantime give generously to the active duty fund drive. You never know whom you may help.

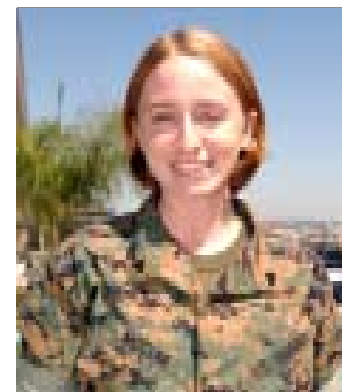
## What ya gonna do...



Marines and dogs with the Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, remind people to contribute to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society campaign. Through the 6th week of the effort, MCAS Miramar has raised more than \$113,000 toward the goal of \$160,000. Only three weeks remain in the campaign. Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

## MIRAMARKS

"How can Marines better manage their finances to avoid borrowing against their next paycheck?"



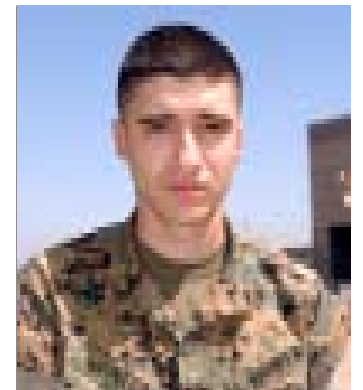
**CPL. MARY E. McCUNE**

Orders NCOIC  
H&HS

"Marines can start by not getting so many credit cards."

**LANCE CPL. FILIP L. PINEDA**  
Administration clerk  
H&HS

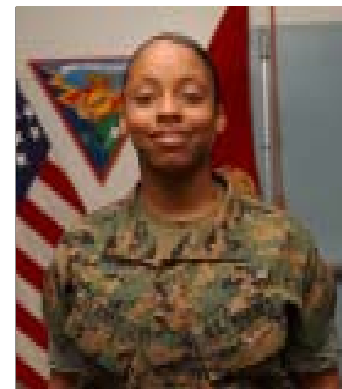
"Marines should prioritize what their needs and wants are and decide which is more crucial."



**CPL. ENICIA R. CLARK**

Inbound NCOIC  
H&HS

"If you have a bill, pay it. Don't write checks you can't pay. Don't compete with friends to 'outbuy' each other."



## FLIGHT JACKET

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# When there's a 'will' there's a way

Story by Cpl. Sara Carter

MCB Quantico

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — Terri Schiavo's public family dispute drew media attention worldwide, and many people are now taking the time to think about what their families would do if they were in a similar situation.

Listening to her case, it is apparent that simply talking to loved ones isn't enough to make sure dying wishes are carried through.

The best way to preserve one's wishes is through a living will.

The military legal assistance offices offer retired and active duty servicemembers and their families the ability to make a notarized living will.

"It's important to let your wishes be known when no one can ask you what your wishes are," said Capt. Korvin Kraics, legal assistance attorney, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. "That essentially is what a living will does; it gives you a vote when you can't speak for yourself.

"It is a document that says 'right now while I am alive and well, and of sound body, I decide to make this decision if circumstance 'X' were to occur and you can't ask me,'" he continued.

"There is no age limit, but a person does need to be legally competent, which means you can't be a minor and you can't be determined incompetent by the court," said Kraics. "You have to be of sound mind and body."

A living will can be made as soon as a person decides he or she needs one.

"It's not a substitute for brain power and it's not a hard and fast rule," said Kraics. "This is you saying, 'this is my vote.' So at the time, when the question arises, nobody can say, 'what would she say at this time?'"

Kraics explained that when people come to the legal office to do their regular will, the Marines in his office also discuss the living will with their clients.

Even though Schiavo's family dispute has been a hot topic for debate, Kraics hasn't seen a huge increase in the number of people coming into the legal office to fill out living wills.

"It's not that more people have come in saying they want a living will, but there are more people saying 'can you talk to me more about what it is?'" said Kraics.

While a living will and a regular will seem similar, there are some differences.

"A living will is also known in Virginia as an advance medical directive," said Kraics. "A will is a document that tells the court who your executor is and what you want the executor to do with your estate. A living will is pretty much another power of attorney that says 'this is my intent,' 'this is how I want to die' to anybody who can't speak to me at the time." A living will, which is a legal document, can still be disputed.

"It's not that (a person) is disputing (the living will). When somebody challenges a living will, he or she is disputing your vote, and he or she usually must contest the validity by showing incompetence during signing," said Kraics. "Ultimately, it's always going to be up to the a court to determine validity if (the living will) is contested."

If a person disputes what's in another's living will, he or she would

likely have to prove that the patient was incompetent at the time the document was signed.

"You are presumed to have been competent (by the courts) unless proven otherwise and if you have the self-proving affidavit by the notary public, it is going to be an extremely high obstacle to prove incompetence," said Kraics.

The best way for a person to protect his or her wishes is to get the will notarized.

"If you have (the will) notarized, it tells the court that this document is self-proving," said Kraics. "...that this person, at the time they signed it, was competent of sound mind and body and was the person they reported to be because it was done in front of a notary public."

Kraics suggests that when a person decides to make a living will, he or she should talk to the person who will be in charge of their care.

"The key is to pick someone you trust and that you love to make those decisions for you," said Kraics. "That person's job is to honor the living will and to understand that was your vote."

## New 'Families First' program to improve moving process

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Full replacement value for lost or damaged items is among several changes taking effect in October as part of a new program called "Families First" that aims to improve the moving process for military families.

"We're going to have a lot of happier campers, because they are not going to be losing any money out of their pockets like they did before," said Cullen Hutchinson of the passenger and personal property office at the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command in Alexandria, Va. According to Hutchinson, under the current claims process, servicemembers only receive depreciated value for property that is lost or damaged.

For example, a \$200 television that is lost or damaged might only be valued at \$100 after depreciation, he said.

With Families First, he said, "the carrier will either replace the television with a similar one or reimburse the servicemember the full cost of a new one."

Another benefit of Families First is that servicemembers will now deal directly with the carrier to arrange direct delivery of household goods, thus alleviating the need for temporary storage, he said.

"What makes this even better for the servicemembers is that whenever you have temporary storage, the more handling of your household goods, the more susceptible it is for loss or damage," he said. Hutchinson added that direct delivery will also save the services money now spent for temporary storage.

With Families First, servicemembers will file settlement claims directly with the carrier, using a Web-based claim filing process.

"There will not be a middle man; the servicemember will be able to address the carrier directly on the issue they have," he explained. "And the carrier will have an incentive to take care of that servicemember

in a positive way."

Servicemembers will be encouraged to complete a Web-based customer satisfaction survey that measures the performance of carriers, Hutchinson said, and that survey will become part of that carrier's record. "If the carrier's performance is poor, then the amount of business he's going to get from the government is going to fall off or stop completely," he explained. "So there is an incentive there. It's no longer a competition on cost, but it's a competition now with cost and performance."

He said the survey gives servicemembers a chance to influence decisions on whether a carrier continues to do business with the Department of Defense.

"That decision is going to be based on the performance of that carrier," he said.

The result would be "more quality carriers, which will translate into quality service for our servicemembers. And higher quality carriers will ultimately mean higher quality moves," he said.

Hutchinson said efforts like Families First should help improve the quality of service in the military moving industry that transports the household goods of more than 500,000 servicemembers and their families each year.

He said problems in the moving industry have plagued the services for years, and that efforts to improve the moving process have been ongoing since 1994, starting with reengineering of the household goods process. "The perceptions were that DoD was experiencing a very high loss and damage rate," he said. "When we looked at the num-

bers, it was significantly higher than some of the corporate accounts."

In addition, he said, claim rates also were higher for military moves. While average military claims ranged around \$500, he said many corporate claims were in the range of \$100.

In the end, he said, DoD expects to see a "considerable decrease in loss and damage claims."

"The reason for that is that the carrier is assuming a higher liability for claims," he said. "So it's in their best interest to protect the goods better so they are not subject to this loss."

Hutchinson said Families First also should ease some of the stress involved with moving.

"What we're trying to do is reduce that stress for our servicemembers so they can concentrate on more important things and not worry about 'my stuff.'"



# Miramar remembers Pope John Paul II

Story by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

Members of the Miramar community gathered at the station chapel April 7 to remember the life of Pope John Paul II through reflective prayer and the celebration of mass.

Pope John Paul II died April 2, after a long fight with Parkinson’s Disease and other illnesses. He served for nearly 27 years, the third longest papacy in the history of Catholicism, and was the first non-Italian to serve as the church’s leader since Pope Adrian VI assumed the position in 1522. The public viewing of his body in St. Peter’s Basilica drew more than four million people to Vatican City and became the largest single pilgrimage in the history of christianity.

The pilgrims traveled to Vatican City, while Marines aboard Miramar attended the memorial for a man whose papacy lasted through five U.S. presidential administrations and was one of the towering political and religious figures of the twentieth century.

“I have a lot of respect and admiration for the man—he did God’s work. That is something that is becoming more and more rare today,” said Pfc. Santiago Martinez, a Dallas native and maintenance administrator with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. “He had so much love for all the world’s people, you can honestly say that he’s in heaven now.”

The pope was a worldly religious leader, travelling to more than 125 countries during his papacy, as well as speaking eight different languages.

“We’re here to celebrate the holy father’s life. He was an icon and an incredibly compassionate man, especially to the poor,” said Cpl. Craig W. Northrop, a Waldorf, Md., native, with the Traffic Management Office, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. “He didn’t just stay at the Vatican, he got the word of God out himself by connecting to people in their own countries.”

The pope’s connection reached its way across borders and



**Lieutenant Commander Antony Berchmanz, chaplain, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, delivers his homily April 7 during a memorial service honoring Pope John Paul II at the MCAS Miramar chapel. The pope died April 2, after a long fight with Parkinson’s Disease and other illnesses. He served for nearly 27 years and was the first non-Italian to serve as the church’s leader since Pope Adrian VI assumed the papacy in 1522. Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich**

fences, including the ones around MCAS Miramar.

“Rome (and the Catholic Church) has representatives in countries across the world and those countries have diplomats in the Vatican, so the pope was able to add a moral and spiritual voice to those nations,” said Lt. Cmdr. Antony Berchmanz,

MCAS Miramar chaplain. “He represented the needs of the poor, needy, oppressed people on the world political assembly as well as attracting millions of the young and old from any religion.”

Pope John Paul II was buried April 8 in a crypt under St. Peter’s Basilica inside Vatican City.

## Barracks become prey to laptop thieves, burglars

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

A young lance corporal leaves his room unlocked and his laptop computer running while he takes about five minutes to change over laundry in the laundry machines 50 feet from his room. What could possibly happen?

The occurrence of laptop computer theft has increased recently at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Although integrity is something that is bred into Marines, giving someone—even another Marine or a passer-by—the opportunity to take your personal property could be a costly risk.

“Since the October time frame we’ve had about 15 laptops stolen,” said David H. Nuttall, investigator, Criminal Investigation Department, MCAS Miramar. “A lot of Marines don’t leave their rooms or windows secured when they go somewhere and give the thief a perfect chance at their things.”

According to a victim who chose to remain anonymous, there is a certain complacency surrounding Marines who are supposed to trust one another.

“You get it drilled into you from the get go that these are your brothers in arms,” he said. “They will give their life for you and you for them. So, it is easy to get complacent when you are around Marines.

“You think you are in good company,” he added. “Nothing is going to happen to you. When the fact is there is that small percentile that will do it to you.”

Although it can be easy to get complacent around people you trust, there are measures that barracks occupants could make into habits that will help fight against thievery.

“You need to be aware of your surroundings,” said Nuttall. “Be aware of suspicious activities and suspicious people. Report all suspicious activities to (the Provost Marshal’s Office).

“Look after your fellow Marines and Sailors,” he added. “Lock your rooms, including both doors and windows. Also, lock up your valuables in your wall lockers.”

Although you should look after your fellow Marines and Sailors, you shouldn’t give them complete access to all of your things.

“I would say don’t take the fact that you’re surrounded by Marines for granted,” said the anonymous victim. “Living in the barracks is just like living in any other place. Because realistically, the same people that live on base were once the people that lived off base.

“The majority of Marines you can trust with your life and personal property,” he concluded. “However, there is that small percentage that make it necessary to take extra precautions.”

# Sailor needs bone marrow match to survive leukemia

Story by Lance Cpl. Matthew K. Hacker

II Marine Expeditionary Force

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — “We must live today, because tomorrow is not promised.” Those are the motivating words that help Petty Officer 3rd Class V. Casino Eatmon, religious program specialist, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., through each day, after being diagnosed with Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia Feb. 10, 2004.

In early 2004, the Wilson, N.C., native was having unusual pains in his joints. The pain eventually reached a point where he had to go to the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital and have it checked out. He was already on many painkillers and still having pain, so a blood test was ran to find out what could be the case.

The hospital discovered he had leukemic cells inside his blood.

That same day, he was sent to the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md., because they have the leading cancer ward for servicemembers and their families in the nation, according to Eatmon.

“The first few days in Bethesda (were) focused on making me comfortable and decreasing my pain,” said Eatmon. “After that, they started doing procedures to get my white blood cell count down.”

The average person’s white blood cell count is typically around 5,000 to

“In Bethesda they had me go around to the other patients to cheer them up, because they said I was so positive given all I had endured.”

*Petty Officer 3rd Class V. Casino Eatmon  
religious program specialist  
Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune*

10,000, but Eatmon’s count was over 275,000.

The hospital lowered his white blood cell count and proceeded with a bone marrow biopsy, which determined the type of leukemia.

After being certain he had CML, his physicians prescribed a fairly new drug called Gleevac to fight its aggression.

“Gleevac is pretty much chemotherapy in the form of a pill,” said Eatmon. “But even though it’s easier to just swallow a few pills, the side affects are still the same as getting it in your arm.”

Eatmon continued treatment at Bethesda for 30 days and worked not only on improving his health, but also improving the mental health of others.

“In Bethesda they had me go around to the other patients to cheer them up, because they said I was so positive given all I had endured,” said Eatmon. “I enjoyed it very much – morale boosting is what I do being a (religious program specialist).”

In August 2004, Eatmon was told his cancer had filtered into remission after five months of chemotherapy.

The Bethesda physicians said Eatmon recovered so much faster and more effectively because he was in such good health before, during and after his remission.

A transplant is still needed for Eatmon since Gleevac is meant only to postpone the need for a bone marrow transplant. The drug is still new and no one really knows how long it will postpone the need for the transplant, according to Eatmon.

“Finding a bone marrow match is much more difficult than finding a blood match,” said Eatmon. “There are other factors. Certain tissues need to match and blood cell counts and consistency of hemoglobin and a whole bunch of stuff, so it takes much longer.”

One of the reasons Eatmon has not found a bone marrow match yet is because there are not enough people in the Department of Defense becoming donors, according to Eatmon.

Eatmon received a high level support for the DoD-wide blood drive Tuesday at the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital. This gave all willing servicemembers, families and civilian Marines the

chance to save a life with a simple blood sample.

“Not only are the people coming to the drive potentially saving my life, they can leave knowing that they are definitely saving someone’s life out there who needs a match,” said Eatmon.

Although a match is needed to beat his leukemia, Eatmon doesn’t dwell on his situation.

Given Eatmon’s circumstances, he doesn’t let them control his life. He still finds time to spend with his wife and three children at their Jacksonville, N.C., home.

Eatmon enjoys playing Latin percussion instruments such as bongos, congas and timbales.

He loves playing them so much that he attended the Winston-Salem State University School of Music to further enhance his playing abilities.

Eatmon also completed his bachelor’s degree in business at the Coastal Carolina Community College after he had been diagnosed.

“I wasn’t going to let anything get me dropped from college,” said Eatmon. “Getting that degree was so important to me.”

Another important goal of Eatmon’s is to bring leukemia awareness to the military community.

For more information on how to assist in saving a life, contact the C.W. Young/DoD Marrow Donor Program at 1-800-MARROW-3 or visit [www.dodmarrow.com](http://www.dodmarrow.com).



# Padres salute local servicemembers during Opening Day Ceremony

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

PETCO PARK, SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Under the roar of a sold-out San Diego crowd of more than 43,000 fans and Marine fighter jets flying overhead, the San Diego Padres kicked off their 2005 home opener with a salute to the U.S. military.

Various Marines were featured during the Padres' opening ceremonies. With a Marine Corps color guard from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego posted on the field, Staff Sgt. Remy Shaffer-Hardy, depot adjutant, MCRD San Diego, sang the National Anthem to a patriotic and excited crowd.

As Petco Park echoed loudly with the famous words "and the home of the brave," three Marine Corps Air Station Miramar-based F/A-18C Hornets with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232, "the Red Devils," Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, roared overhead in formation amidst celebratory cheers.

Before the game began, Staff Sgt. Brian Hernandez, also from MCRD San Diego and a recently returned veteran of the war in Iraq, threw the traditional first pitch of the game to major leaguer Mark Sweeney.

During the ceremonies, Sailors from the USS Ronald Reagan carried a massive American flag that spanned the outfield, and the U.S. Navy Parachute Demonstration Team spiraled from a cloudy sky onto the field with trailing colored smoke. Many of the "Leap Frogs," including one with the POW/MIA flag, were also veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Those dearest to America's servicemembers on the front lines of the Global War on Terror were also highlighted as a part of the pre-ballgame festivities.

As the Padres players were introduced before the game, they escorted various children of parents currently serving in Iraq onto the field at Petco Park during a special moment.

"The Padres and those of us at 'the Mighty 1090' are very, very proud supporters of our military and are happy to highlight what our men and women in uniform do for our country as we kick off the new season," said Ted Leitner, Padres radio broadcaster, who visited the Marines at Al Asad, Iraq, in December 2004.

The Padres went on to defeat the Pittsburgh Pirates, 1-0, in extra innings when Padre pinch hitter Geoff Blum crossed home plate following a bases-loaded walk given up by the Pirates in the 12th inning.



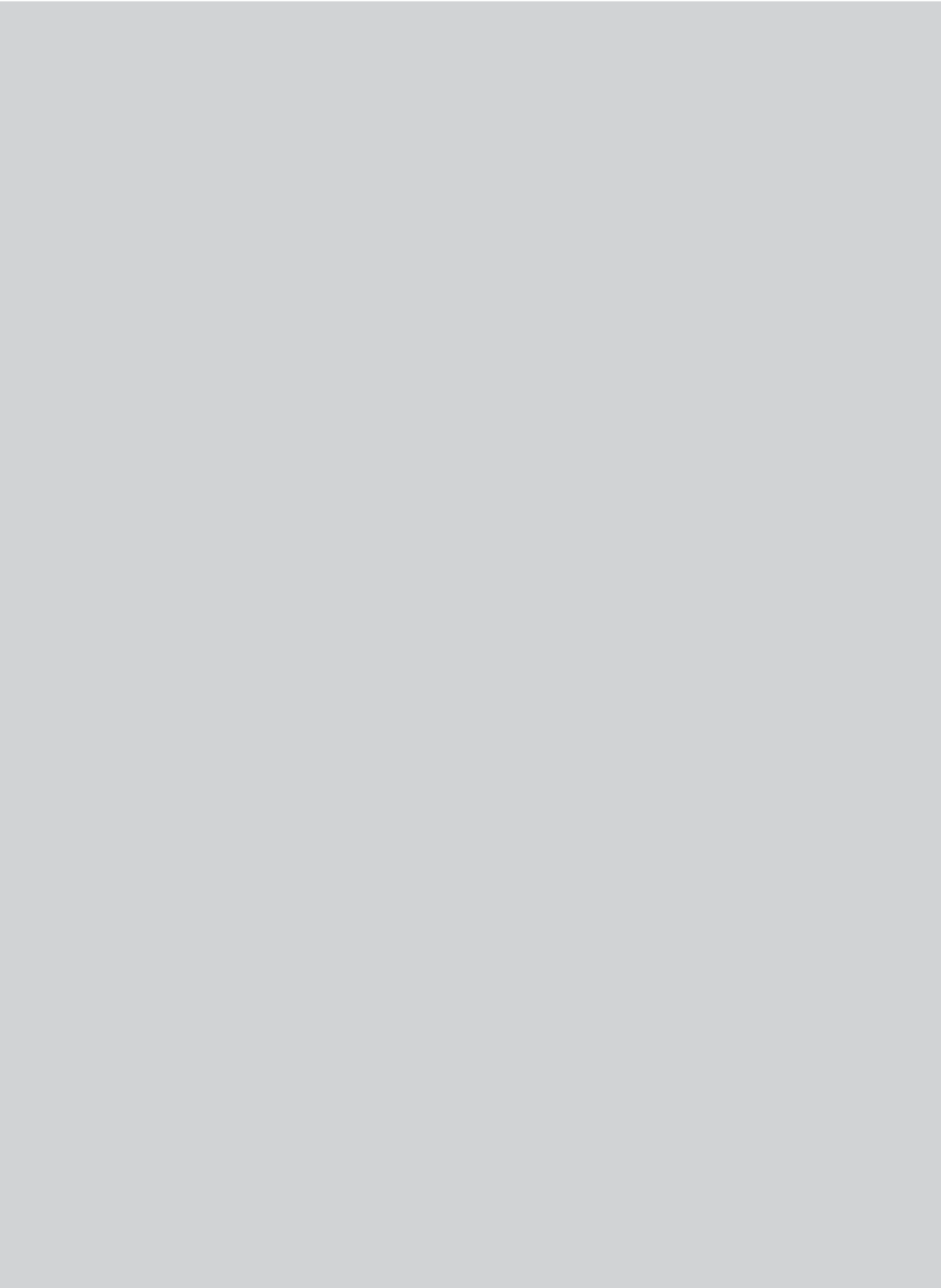
Staff Sergeant Brian K. Fernandez, from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and a recently returned veteran of the war in Iraq, throws out the first pitch to Major League Baseball player Mark Sweeney at Petco Park during the San Diego Padres 2005 Opening Day ceremonies April 7. *Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht*



Groundskeepers prepare the infield for play April 7 before the San Diego Padres 2005 Opening Day ceremonies, where the team and fans saluted the U.S. military. *Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht*



Sailors from the USS Ronald Reagan carry a massive American flag onto the field April 7 at Petco Park during the San Diego Padres 2005 Opening Day ceremonies. *Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht*





# Simulations improve hands-on training

Story by Staff Sgt. Cindy Fisher

## Headquarters Marine Corps

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, Washington — Simulation training is taking some of the “field” out of training.

Though hands-on-been-there-done-that real field experience will always be a vital part of the training cycle, simulated training will play a much larger role in the future, said Capt. Erik Jilson, a modeling and simulation analyst at the Technology Division, Training and Education Command at MCB Quantico, Va. Scenario-driven computer exercises, virtual reality video games and hi-tech equipment simulators are meant to augment live training, saving money, time and lives.

“The training that takes place before live training has the goal of better preparing Marines. When live training (occurs), less time is spent getting up to speed and the ‘in the field’ training time is more effective,” Jilson said.

Simulators usually take less time and fewer personnel to set up. Scenarios can be played repeatedly through simulations, and many simulators also include an after action reporting process for evaluation.

“The best training is live, but it is costly in training dollars,” said Truman C. Preston, assistant chief of staff, G7, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Repetition is part of training; “the more times you do (something) the better you get,” he said. “Simulations are more cost effective ways to build in the repetitions needed to gain

experience.”

Simulation training also puts no wear and tear on vehicles or aircraft, and it uses no ammunition, fuel or other expendable materials. A 2nd Marine Division commanding general in the mid-80s credited a one-week division-level computer-assisted exercise with saving more than \$70,000 in radio batteries alone, Preston said.

“Needless to say, savings in 2005 dollars would be considerably more,” said Preston, who retired from the Corps as a lieutenant colonel after more than 28 years.

Simulations allow Marines to make and learn from mistakes in an environment that does not result in deaths. “Using simulations, trainers can inflict casualties on trainees for improper tactics, bad decisions, poor team coordination, etc., and make them bleed, so to speak,” he said.

Marines who “bleed” in the simulations, “hopefully won’t bleed in actual combat,” he said.

## Training in the Air

The next step to more realistic simulation training takes Marines out of the computer room and puts them into equipment simulators.

Pilots at Marine Medium Tilt Rotor Training Squadron 204 based at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., spend considerably more time in simulators training to fly the MV-22 Osprey than in the actual aircraft, said Col. Joel Kane, the commanding officer of the squadron.

During the four-month initial instruction phase of the curriculum, pilots are in the MV-



**A Navy F/A-18 pilot at Naval Air Station Lemoore trains in a simulator that was manufactured and maintained by the Link Simulation and Training Division. Photo courtesy of L-3 Communications**

22 Full Flight Simulator 60 hours and in the aircraft 36, Kane said. “Flight simulators do an outstanding job of introducing pilots and aircrew to a specific type, model or series of aircraft.”

The Osprey is a tilt-rotor aircraft that takes off like a helicopter. Thanks to the two rotors mounted to its wings that tilt forward, it can convert to fly as a plane. This transition “creates some unique aerodynamic chal-

lenges that pilots must work through,” Kane said.

In the simulators, a student pilot “gets a feel” for what is required to maintain control of the aircraft “long before ever getting into the seat of an actual MV-22,” he said.

A mistake in the aircraft could result in the loss of life and a more than \$80 million dollar aircraft. A mistake in the simulator means a reboot by the instructor and students try again.

## LEJEUNE

continued from page 1

“He is a positive person but it has had to affect him. I mean, he has a long way till recovery and a lot of physical therapy is going to be required. It is going to be a long road but he will.”

However, during all this Lejeune has received endless support from friends, family and his command.

“His wife has been with him since he arrived in San Antonio,” said Dixon. “She stayed at his side and changed his bandages. His mother and father have visited him several times. His in-laws have taken care of his children.

“We are just ecstatic about getting him back,” he added. “We have ensured that he has the proper facilities. We facilitated a wheel chair ramp being put in his house. The California State Alliance has assured their long distance phone calls have been taken care of. The Marine Corps Association has helped out also. It is definitely a family-team effort from the squadron that he and his family have been taken care of.”

Although Lejeune was just one man, his absence will really affect the overall standing of the squadron.

“It was a really big blow when he got wounded,” said Olszowy. “There are only 10 technical controllers in the unit and we had two get wounded that day. You think that’s only two out of 10, but we only have four over there at any given time. If you take two guys out you are down 50 percent, and having two staff sergeants taken out the same day was a pretty big blow to the unit.”

According to Olszowy, Lejeune is really the brains behind the operation.

“Anytime we had a problem, Staff Sergeant



**Staff Sergeant Ian C. Lejeune and his wife Vanessa greet their youngest son Monday at San Diego International Airport after a flight from San Antonio. The technical controller for Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, was wounded in Taqaddam, Iraq, when a rocket struck his quarters while he was sleeping. Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke**

Lejeune solved it,” said Olszowy. “He is a very proficient guy, a very smart guy.”

“He is well liked by both his peers and superiors,” he concluded. “He’s just an all around nice guy. I would call him an all-American.”



# Chemical brothers unite in Iraq

Story by Cpl. Rocco DeFilippis

## *2nd Marine Aircraft Wing*

ALASAD, Iraq — Marines have always been known for their ingenuity and ability to adapt and overcome to accomplish any mission.

The Marines of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) Nuclear, Biological and Chemical section stand as a testament to this reputation, tackling the important task of ensuring the readiness of the servicemembers here.

Responsible for all the protective, detection and decontamination gear for the servicemembers in Al Asad, the Marines of 2nd MAW (Fwd) NBC have taken a new approach to their vital mission.

By consolidating the equipment and personnel normally spread throughout the wing into one NBC section, the Marines are better equipped to maintain the readiness necessary to handle an emergency.

“Previous units had the equipment staged with individual units, which is okay for a while,” said Chief Warrant Officer George G. Bernard, NBC officer-in-charge and native of Columbia, S.C. “The equipment requires constant maintenance and testing to ensure the protective value remains at mandatory levels. That’s hard to do when you are spread out.”

Most of the NBC gear owned by 2nd MAW (Fwd) has been in country for two years now. Numerous movement and exposure to the harsh conditions of Iraq requires the close attention of the NBC Marines to ensure the gear is ready to be used.

The Marines are responsible for visual and physical inspections to determine the serviceability of the lifesaving equipment.

“It’s important to stay on top of the equipment,” said Lance Cpl. Nathan R. Walsh, NBC defense specialist and native of Charleston, S.C. “It’s one thing to have all the



**The Nuclear, Biological and Chemical defense specialists of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) work each day to ensure the readiness of servicemembers aboard Al Asad, Iraq. The 2nd MAW (Fwd) NBC unit has become the first NBC unit to consolidate while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Cpl. Rocco DeFilippis**

gear, but if it doesn’t work when you need it, it’s useless.”

Starting from scratch, with a warehouse once used for storage of dilapidated appliances and outdated technology, the Marines began the arduous task of consolidating, taking inventory and evaluating the NBC assets.

“It’s been a non-stop effort to get to the point we are at today,” said Cpl. Adam W. Beranek, NBC noncommissioned officer in charge and native of Aiken, S.C. “To see the warehouse now, compared to the trash heap it was,

we’ve come a long way.”

Coordination with the groups and squadrons within the wing and predetermined staging and distribution points, combined with the knowledge that the gear is operating at full capacity, allows the Marines to be more ready than ever before.

Although the current threat-level for a nuclear, biological or chemical attack is low, the centralization of the NBC assets allows for greater readiness in the event of an attack.



# Ride raises millions for Wounded Warrior Project

Story by Sgt. Beth Zimmerman

*New York City Public Affairs*

NEW YORK — “It goes without saying,” said Fox News Channel anchor Linda Vester, “how much we thank you for your service.”

Vester directed her comment to 17 “wounded warriors” standing on stage next to her at the Millennium Hotel in Manhattan. Before she could finish the word “service,” the entire room erupted in enthusiastic applause. The applause continued for almost three minutes as the entire room demonstrated their respect for the wounded veterans.

Soldier Ride, Inc. and Wounded Warrior Project joined forces to raise money for WWP April 4. Soldier Ride sponsored a \$1,000 per plate fundraiser at the Millennium to raise money for WWP, and ultimately, wounded veterans.

According to WWP’s mission statement; the project “was founded to give a voice to new generations of military servicemembers and veterans. This project enables veterans to aid and assist each other through rehabilitation and readjustment to civilian life.” Former Marine John Melia, who was wounded during a deployment to Somalia, founded the WWP.

“The Wounded Warrior Project is out to make sure the stories of the next greatest generation are told,” said Melia during the fundraiser. That’s where Soldier Ride came in.

Chris Carney was working as a bartender in East Hampton, N.Y., at The Stephen Talkhouse when the idea of Soldier Ride hatched late one night in March of 2004.

“We were having some beers at the end of the night,” said Carney, “and the idea just sort of came to me to ride (a bicycle) across the country for a fundraiser.” According to Carney, he discussed the idea the next day with his boss, Peter Honerkamp, who owns the Talkhouse. Honerkamp liked it so much he told Carney, “if you don’t do it, I’ll find someone who will.”

“Then we went down to (Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital) and we were blown away by what we saw,” said Carney. “I’m 34 years old, and I was surprised by how much (wounded) youth I saw down there,” he said. “I had always pictured vets before as the older guys you see on Veteran’s Day,” said the East Hampton native. “Their attitude was so positive, and we wanted to do something for them.”

Carney and his team from the Talkhouse found out about the WWP while they were visiting with Soldiers at Walter Reed. At that point, the WWP was a smaller organization focused mainly on distributing wounded

**“The Wounded Warrior Project is out to make sure the stories of the next greatest generation are told,”**

**John Melia**  
**founder, Wounded Warrior Project**

warrior packs to the injured servicemembers. The WWP filled the packs with essential items and creature comforts for the servicemembers, ranging from socks to CD players.

“We were struggling (financially) to do what we wanted to do,” said Melia. “Every effort like this needs (something big) to get it off the ground.”

Carney’s ride from N.Y. to San Diego, Calif., turned into the nationally-publicized event WWP needed. He left Montauk Point, N.Y., on his bicycle in August of last year.

“I remember sitting here with a bucket for people to put money in,” said Sandy Kiegiel, who works at the Talkhouse and is part of Soldier Ride. “People were writing personal checks for five and ten bucks,” she said. “Our goal (when Carney started riding) was to raise \$500,000, which seemed so far away,” said Kiegiel. “Then, Fox News picked up the story. We started getting checks from all over the country.”

“When we hit the one million mark, it was amazing. Then, we hit \$4 million,” she said. “We still can’t believe it. We’re just regular people. It really shows that anyone can make a difference.”

The difference has been huge for WWP and the servicemembers they support. “Soldier Ride was really the catalyst that got us national recognition,” said Melia. “We’ve been able to do so much more thanks to them,” he added. “Our goal is that not one (wounded) servicemember goes without the services they need.”

Carney reached San Diego on his bicycle in October of last year. His cross-country journey took him a little under two months. Six months later, he said he’s ready to do it again. The 34-year-old will push off for Soldier Ride 2 from Los Angeles, Calif., May 22. According to Carney, he hopes more veterans can join him on the trip.

“It’s so much more now than some bartender from New York trying to raise money for these vets,” said Carney. “Now it’s more of a way for these vets to get out and ride with us,” he said. “The biggest thing is...having the wounded soldiers get back on their feet and make a difference. This is a difference they’re making with and for their fellow vets and friends.”

According to Carney, he will ride through a major



**Chris Carney (right) rides out the final leg of his cross-country bicycle ride accompanied by injured veterans Oct. 7, 2004. Carney, who was a bartender in East Hampton, N.Y, left Montauk Point, N.Y., on his bicycle Aug. 17 of last year and rode to San Diego, Calif. to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project. His efforts turned into Soldier Ride, Inc. The organization has raised more than \$4 million for wounded war veterans. Carney will make a second Soldier Ride to raise more money this year. For more information on Soldier Ride, visit [www.soldierride.com](http://www.soldierride.com). Photo Courtesy of Soldier Ride, Inc.**

city every couple of days during the ride before he finishes in New York July 17. He and Kiegiel both said they’ve come too far to stop helping veterans now.

“There’s too much we want to do for these guys,” said Kiegiel. “We have nothing to do with the military, but we want to keep helping.”

“We never really planned to become full-time advocates for these wounded vets,” said Carney. “But, as we’re exposed to it, it’s hard to walk away. Honestly, I’ve never done anything as rewarding as this in my life.”

## WALK continued from page 1

tissue is destroyed or damaged, the results can be a disruption of signals from the brain to the rest of the body. This is what causes those with MS to experience symptoms of the disease, which include vision problems, slurred speech and cognitive impairment.

Despite over a century of research, little is known about the cause of the disease, how or why individuals acquire it or what can be done to prevent it. Medications are available to slow the progression of the disease, but to this day there is no cure.

Approximately 400,000 Americans have been diagnosed with MS, according to the NMSS.

Because of the sporadic nature of MS symptoms and its often-debilitating prognosis, family members and friends are often affected as well.

Captain Robert C. Kamei, a native of Austin, Texas, was medically retired almost five years ago at 28 years old from the same diagnosis as Hathcock. Although he planned to pursue a career in the Marine Corps, his goals were cut short by the disease.

“I was in total disbelief,” said Kamei. “My future all of a sudden became uncertain.”

Although Kamei is now confined to a wheelchair, his outlook has changed. He currently speaks as an ambassador for one of the pharmaceutical companies that produces MS-related medications.

“Life does go on after being diagnosed with MS,” said Kamei. “Quitting, like surrendering, is never an option.”

Staff Sergeant Sahba Rahmani, administration chief, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, and a native of Prospect Heights, Ill., worked with Kamei at his final duty station in 2000.

“I have seen Captain Kamei go through a lot over the years,” said Rahmani. “He always manages to persevere. He has inspired me to become a team captain for the MS Walk for the past five years to help find a cure, or at least some relief, for people with MS.”

Kamei expressed his appreciation for the Marines’ efforts and offered others words of encouragement.

“Take advantage of the gifts you’ve been given,” Kamei. “(Don’t) waste your days worrying about the little things in life.”



**Dee Dean (in glasses) embraces Kiwanis Club of Alpine President Debbie Jackson after standing from her wheelchair and finishing the 2005 San Diego Multiple Sclerosis Walk April 10 on foot with assistance from her friends. The walk raised more than \$1.5 million to help find a cure for the disease that affects more than 400,000 Americans. Photos by Staff Sgt. Chad McMeen**



## Miramar Movies

The Station Auditorium is located in building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies free of charge. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, contact 577-4143 or log on to [www.mccsmiramar.com](http://www.mccsmiramar.com).

**Friday:**  
4:30 p.m. Because of Winn Dixie (PG)  
7:00 p.m. Laugh Your Tax Time Blues Away Live Comedy Shw (18 and over only)  
9:00 p.m. Million Dollar Baby (PG-13)

**Saturday:**  
6:30 p.m. Diary of a Mad Black Woman (PG-13)  
8:45 p.m. Hithch (PG-13)

**Sunday:**  
1:00 p.m. Son of the Mask (PG)  
6:30 p.m. Constantine (R)

**Wednesday:**  
6:30 p.m. Be Cool (PG-13)

**Thursday:**  
1:30 p.m. Ventriloquist Show Live on Stage  
2:00 p.m. The Pacifier (PG)  
8:00 p.m. Million Dollar Baby (PG-13)

## Street Smarts

The Street Smarts program, sponsored by Anheuser Busch, is scheduled to be hosted Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the station theater. Street Smarts is a program that was started by firefighters and paramedics in Miami-Dade County, Fla., to help decrease the number of teen and young adult deaths caused by illegal drugs and alcohol.

For more information on this presentation, call (858) 577-1506.

## Religious Services

The Chaplain's Office is located in building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain's Office at 577-1333.

**Sunday:**  
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service  
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist

**Wednesday:**  
7 p.m. Baptist service

**Monday-Friday:**  
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass

**Jewish:**  
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD  
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

## EOD looking for new talent

Explosive Ordnance Disposal will host a brief for all Marines interested in a lateral move into the field, April 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the EOD classroom, building 22166, at Camp Pendleton. For more information contact your unit career retention specialist.

## FPC open for enrollment

Miramar's Family Practice Clinic is now open for enrollment as primary care manager for military families. The clinic recently opened for enrollment as space for new patients became available. For more information on enrollment, call (858) 577-6252. The center offers services including routine appointments, physicals for school, well baby checks and immunizations.

## Challenge Cup to aid NMCRS

The Miramar Challenge Cup is scheduled to kick off Monday and continue through April 22. The events include 10-person teams competing in events ranging from a homerun derby to horseshoes. For more information about event locations and times, call (858) 577-1722/4470.

## Seder meal at Miramar

Miramar's command religious program is inviting all Jewish servicemembers and their families to attend the Passover Seder meal during the Jewish Feast of Passover being hosted at the Miramar Officers' Club April 24 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (858) 577-1333.

## Impounded Vehicles

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information contact the Provost Marshal's Office at 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:	Vehicle:	License:
1995 Dodge Neon	CA/3KGZ374	1993 Plymouth Voyager	4HVP334
1989 Subaru GL	CA/1REE135	Unk. Mazda 626	CA/1STD385
Unk. Honda Prelude	No Plates No VIN	1993 Ford Escourt	CA/3EKK843
Red Sea King Boat	No Plates No ID	1998 Honda DX	CA/2YBS381
Hydra Sports Boat	FL/CZ39M	Unk. Honda Accord	GA/77693
Unk. VW Jetta	No Plates No VIN	1990 Ford Mustang	CA/2TAX992

